

# The Hawaiian Star,

DAILY AND SEMI-WEEKLY.

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Editor

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## AIR SPACES.

Wonderful improvements have been made both at Thomas Square and at Aala. Thomas Square has had a large number of its trees cut out, very much to the advantage of its appearance. The surface of the ground, where it had been made bare by the thick undergrowth is now laid down in neat turf. The place is no longer a spot where the thug can hide himself and whence he can spring upon unwary passersby, nor can it be used as a rendezvous for improper characters. The change moreover is one which adds to the beauty of King street.

The clinging to impervious masses of shrubbery is characteristic of the old style of Hawaiian landscape gardening. The thicker and closer you could get the shrubs to grow, the better. The main idea was to keep out air and light. Specimens of this style of cultivation common enough about Honolulu, were more frequent still a few years ago, but people have got bravely over it now, and understand that air and light are as necessary to health in this sunlit country, as ever they are in a more temperate climate.

In former years Emma Square was allowed to grow up into a tangled wilderness, which some determined air space man put an end to, and Emma Square is now doing the duty which it was designed for, supplying a healthy spot in the city where one can breathe freely and not be choked with the unhealthy exhalations of rotting vegetation. Of the old style of planting probably Hilo shows the most discouraging example. There are lots in the rainy city absolutely dense with trees, and yet the owners will not thin them out, because Aunt Jane planted this one and Uncle Silas planted that one, and Cousin Kepsibale admired that mass of bamboo, and so on. Meanwhile the leaves are thick and rotting on the ground, and the earth is "squishy," for it never gets the sunlight to dry it up, and the wonder is that fever does not hold its own more imperiously than it does.

Aala, on the other hand, is but a bare air space which will need planting, but it is to be hoped that it will never be allowed to grow into a tangled wilderness. Indeed there is little likelihood, for Aala is to be a children's playground, and will always have to be open and free for the youngsters to run about in. The air spaces of a city need to be open to the light of heaven, and it is a good thing that the Superintendent of Public Works has taken them well in hand and is pushing forward the work vigorously.

## RESTRICTED FRANCHISE.

The constitution of Alabama, which has been framed practically to disfranchise the Negro, has had a move through the courts and come off victorious. The constitution restricted the elective franchise to men having education and regular employment, or property worth three hundred dollars, or personal or ancestral war record, or a good character and a proper knowledge of the duties of a citizen. Under these provisions the county boards of registration have approved of the applications of white men and have turned down the application of the Negroes.

A negro, Jackson W. Giles, brought action in the Circuit Court to compel his registration. He was defeated and appealed to the Supreme Court of the United States. A decision has now been handed down which shuts out Jackson W. Giles as a voter. The decision says that if the constitution of Alabama is a fraud, the court cannot recognize it by ordering registration made in compliance with its provisions. If it is not a fraud, there can be no complaint against it. Finally the complaint is political and not judicial and the Supreme Court can not give relief.

The case has naturally attracted widespread attention. It has opened up the whole question of negro suffrage, and there seems a sweeping opinion even in the North that it has proved a very complete failure. Some of these opinions are leveled at the Fifteenth amendment, which is characterized as an "error in national judgment" which the North is beginning to realize, and a Rhode Island paper says, "the national museum is exactly where the Fifteenth amendment belongs." Truly may it be that times change and that we change along with them.

The effect of the decision of the Supreme Court will be to strengthen then the campaign of disfranchisement in the South. It will also have a strong bearing upon the political future of the Porto Ricans and the Filipinos. Once allow the principle of disfranchisement and there is no telling where it will stop. Carried to its logical conclusion it will extend to all ignorant and all corrupt votes, but that would be reaching the millennium, the valhalla of politics, and we need not think that we are approaching that by any means.

Few people appreciate how much money is invested in theaters in the United States totally apart from the amount invested in finery, theatrical wardrobes etc., which must also be very large. There are in all 2,188 theaters upon the mainland. The new theaters in course of construction are estimated to cost \$18,000,000. New York is to have one new theater costing \$2,000,000, one costing \$1,500,000, two costing \$1,000,000 and nine from \$750,000 to \$500,000 each, the total amounting to \$8,500,000 for that one city. Boston, Pittsburg, Cincinnati and Menominee, Mich., are all erecting \$1,000,000 houses. San Francisco and Los Angeles are to have each a \$500,000 house. The total investment at present through the states is \$75,000,000 at a very conservative estimate. The new theaters will raise this. New York State heads the list with 230 theaters, Pennsylvania has 162, Ohio 151, Nevada brings up the tail with 4. Seeing the large investment, and the number of people employed in various capacities, the theatrical profession in the United States is for more important than most people think of.

The Reliance is going to be the yacht that will gather in the money if Lipton's Shamrock III gets left, but Shamrock III is going to make a tough race of it.

The usual Turkish atrocities are now coming over the wires. A great deal of this stuff must be taken with a large grain of salt. Atrocities, when committed, are generally carried out by irregular troops. The Turkish regular troops are no more blood-thirsty than any other troops, but it suits certain political parties in Europe to circulate stories against them. Upon such matters the thrill of horror which went through the world, when a very circumstantial account of the massacre at the embassies in Peking, must not be forgotten. It will be remembered that the Russian ambassador was boiled in a cauldron and the most sickening details were given. It must also be re-

membered that there was not a word of truth in the story. Fake stories about the Turks are as easily got up and as easily believed. Moreover the Bulgarians and the Macedonians have dramatic imaginations.

Berlin society is much exercised over the recall of most of the German embassy from Washington, owing to a quarrel between the Baroness Speck von Sternberg and the other ladies of the embassy. The Baroness Speck is an American lady. There is no county in the world where so much attention is given to descent as in Germany, and the daughters of many quarterlings stood on their dignity. They were in the wrong, however, and the German Government calmly removed their husbands, but the German Government has not been able to stop the clacking of women's tongues in Berlin. When the Baroness Speck returns, she will not have a good time.

The doctor's won't let a man die comfortably now, and stay dead. An experimenter has found out that you can kill dogs, and then bring them back to the world, where they will not, play round, bark, and otherwise disport themselves. He does not say how the brains of the dog are affected, because he does not know how. This resuscitation business may be a very serious thing. A man may die with the brain of a college professor and return to life with the brain of a college undergraduate, and a hankering after beer. It would be very serious, for instance if Kupihua were to die and on resuscitation be found to have the brain of Uncle Joe Cannon, or some dignified matron might depart and be recalled with the mental attributes of Llene de Puy. Talk of a topsy turvy world, it will be



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a very bedlam. Death used to have some attractions, when it was in Hamlet's phrase "to die, to sleep," and even Hamlet thought of an unpleasant possibility "perchance to dream." That presented unhappy results. But if it is "to die, to sleep," and then to be awakened up by resuscitation, massage of the heart and salt being pumped into the veins, one of the happiest moments of life, which is death, will be made one of the most terrible. There is no such terrible thing for the world weary to glide into the last long sleep, but it will be terrible to be unpleasantly awakened by a doctor messing with one's heart.

Added to disease, ladrones, and other unpleasantnesses the Philippines have developed a conflagration which has rendered many thousands homeless. It does not take long to rebuild a Filipino home however. A few palm leaves and a game rooster are all that is needed.

If the find of the native fisherman, upon the other side of the island proves to be ambergris, there will be money galore in their pockets. To the uninitiated eye the specimens look very much like tallow which has been in the water for some time, but then the uninitiated eye is not much to go by. It is apt to accept pyrites for gold and prefers quartz crystals to diamonds. It is to be hoped that the native fisherman really have made a lucky find.

The review of the National Guard was satisfactory, and the report will enable the Territory to draw supplies, etc., for the coming year.

We have not had such a blustery day as yesterday for some time. As heavy a storm as this to close the month of May and open out smiling and sunny June is phenomenal. The water supply for the dry summer months seems to be assured, and the coffee cane crop is in fine condition. We have much to be thankful for, even if we do have a legislature which is like "linked sweetness, long drawn out."

Kansas has had and is having a fearful time. The immense flood of the Missouri has spread devastation over thousands of homes, and has swept away the material fortunes of hundreds. In a complicated life such as we live, the slightest interference with traffic brings about serious consequences. In a highly civilized community a very large portion depend upon daily supplies of food, there is no re-

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A Three-Line Advertisement (18 words) will be inserted in the STAR'S Classified Columns for 25 cents. Each additional line at the rate of 10 cents extra. Ads under "Situations Wanted," inserted free until further notice.

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serve store, as there is in the simple country life of a farmer. Thus in Kansas City and Topeka added to the horrors of flood and fire, is the complete cessation of food supplies. Railway traffic is congested and in some cases suspended, and it is hard to get assistance to the sufferers. The actual loss of life, though considerable, is not so large as it might have been. The Kansas disaster, great as it is, is nothing like to appalling as the practical destruction of Galveston. However Kansas needs all the help that can be given, and fortunately help is always forthcoming in our generous country.

The report that the legislature will finish up its work this coming week is too good to be true. Besides how is the city going to get along without its K. K. K.

### SAGE'S PHILOSOPHY.

Russell Sage does not take any stock in these theories about living on 10 cents a day. Russell frequently pays a smuch as that for his luncheons alone.—Chicago News.

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### Latest Books

A short time ago an article appeared in the "Argonaut," being a special and reporting an interview with Booth Tarkington in which the gifted author informed the newspaper man of the status of the great strike started by the authors and poets. At last accounts an agreement was expected between the publishers and the striking writers. This strike, which threatened the literary world, has now been adjusted, we are informed, and the first book to be published is now in wide circulation. The plot hovers over the home life of a happy pair. The usual trials arise. While the plot is quite after the ordinary the story is well written and one scene in particular is very interesting. It deals with a wordy war over the installing of a Douglas Patent Closet. Published by Bath the Plumber.

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